AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:

an elongate handle and a head;

the head ~~comprising a longitudinal axis,~~ having a top face[[,]] and a bottom face;

the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;

the bottom face ~~comprising~~ having a recess therein, a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface disposed within the recess, and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;

the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;

the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and wherein the plurality of projections are oriented in staggered rows.

13. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

14. (currently amended): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows transverse to the longitudinal axis of the brush.

15. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows generally parallel with the longitudinal axis of the brush.

16. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 15, wherein the plurality of projections cover a substantial portion of the bottom face.

17. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 15, wherein the entire plurality of projections are uniform in shape.

18. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

19. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 18, wherein the plurality of projections are nubs.

20. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 19, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical.

21. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 20, wherein the head further comprises outwardly extending elastomeric ridge-like elements.

22. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 21, wherein the ridge-like elements are arcuate.

23. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the handle comprises a motor.

24. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 23, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

25. (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:

an elongate handle and a head;
the head ~~comprising a longitudinal axis,~~ having a top face[[,]] and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;
the bottom face ~~comprising~~ having a recess therein, a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface disposed within the recess; and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;
the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;

the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and wherein the plurality of projections are generally oriented in rows transverse to the longitudinal axis of the brush, and wherein the transverse rows are staggered.

26. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

27. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

28. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 27, wherein the head further comprises arcuate elastomeric ridge-like elements.

29. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 25, wherein the handle comprises a motor, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

30. (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:
an elongate handle and a head;
the head ~~comprising a longitudinal axis,~~ having a top face[[,]] and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;
the bottom face ~~comprising~~ having a recess therein, a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface disposed within the recess; and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;
the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;
the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and
wherein the plurality of projections are generally oriented in rows parallel with the longitudinal axis of the brush, and wherein the parallel rows are staggered.

31. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 30, wherein the handle comprises a motor, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

32. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 31, wherein the motor imparts a pulsing motion to the massaging surface.

33. (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:
an elongate handle and a head;
the head ~~comprising a longitudinal axis,~~ having a top face[[,]] and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface, the brushing surface comprising a bristle carrier configured to move with respect to the head;
the bottom face ~~comprising~~ having a recess therein, a generally flat elastomeric massaging plate disposed within the recess, wherein a side wall exists between the brushing surface and a surface of the massaging plate;
the brushing surface comprising a collection of bristle tufts extending from the bristle carrier;
wherein said massaging plate has a surface that comprises a plurality of projections; and
wherein the plurality of projections are oriented in staggered rows.

34. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 33, wherein the massaging plate is secured to the bottom face of the toothbrush head.

35. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 34, wherein the massaging plate has a top surface that is generally coplanar with the bottom face of the toothbrush head.

36. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 35, wherein the massaging plate is formed from an elastomeric material and the toothbrush head is formed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, cellulose acetate propionate, a theremoplastic elastomer,

a thermoplastic olefin, a thermoplastic polyolefin, ethylene-vinylacetate copolymer, ethylene propylene rubber, and combinations thereof.

37. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 36, wherein the massaging plate is elongate.

38. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

39. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 38, wherein the top face further comprises a plurality of elastomeric elements.

40. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 39, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

41. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 40, wherein the bottom face is generally planar.

42. (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 41, wherein the top face is generally planar.

43. (canceled)

44. (New) A toothbrush comprising:

a body having a handle, a head, and a neck extending between the handle and the head, the head having a front face and a rear face, the rear face having a recess therein;

a plurality of bristle tufts extending from the front face;

a drive mechanism for imparting motion to the bristle tufts; and

a massaging surface disposed within the recess in the rear face.

45. (New) The toothbrush of claim 44, further comprising a bristle carrier disposed on the front face of the head, and wherein at least a portion of the plurality of bristle tufts are disposed in the bristle carrier.

46. (New) The toothbrush of claim 44, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a motor disposed within the body and a shaft operatively connected to the motor.

47. (New) The toothbrush of claim 46, wherein the shaft extends into the neck.

48. (New) The toothbrush of claim 47, wherein a portion of the drive mechanism is disposed within the head.

49. (New) The toothbrush of claim 48, wherein the massaging plate covers the portion of the drive mechanism disposed in the head.

50. (New) The toothbrush of claim 49, wherein the massaging surface has a smooth outer surface.

51. (New) The toothbrush of claim 50, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a linking component.

52. (New) The toothbrush of claim 44, wherein the massaging plate comprises at least one raised protrusion.